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## ***DC Fire & EMS Patient Care Policies: Inability to Carry Out a Physician Order***

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**Note Well:** Occasionally a situation may arise in which a physician's order cannot be carried out (e.g., the EMT-I or EMT-P is unable to administer an ordered medication, a medication is not available, or a physician's order appears medically unsound).



### ***I. Advanced Life Support Provider***

1. Notify the consulting physician immediately that the order cannot be carried out and the reason why it cannot be carried out.



**Note Well:** When an order that appears to be medically unsound is received, the EMT-I or EMT-P will

- Have Medical Control repeat the order and
- State your concern about the possibly medically unsound or potentially lethal order and request alternative orders or clarification.

2. Notify the On Duty EMS Supervisor.
  - A. Identify the circumstances surrounding the incident.
  - B. Upon completion of the incident, the unit is to be placed out of service.
  - C. A special report documenting the case, treatment rendered and the reason medical control orders could not be followed will be completed prior to returning to service.



**Note Well:** Document the circumstances surrounding the incident on the Patient Care Report.

- D. The incident will be investigated by the Medical Director.

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